

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 OIC-02

ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 H-02 DODE-00

PM-04 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OES-06

HEW-06 DHA-02 CIEP-02 BIB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 263475

NESCO

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE: STATEMENT RE: MASS
MEDIA ISSUES BY SENATORS SPARKMAN AND CASE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JOINT STATEMENT FROM SENATORS
SPARKMAN(CHAIRMAN OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN
RELATIONS) AND CASE(COMMITTEES RANKING REPUBLICAN
MEMBER) ISSUED OCTOBER 22 AND SLATED FOR PRESS
OCTOBER 25.

BEGIN TEXT:

JOINT STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED UNESCO
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RESOLUTION TO GIVE STATES THE RIGHT TO CONTROL THE

FREE PRESS,

THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION THIS WEEK BEGINS ITS NINETEENTH GENERAL CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI. A NUMBER OF CRITICAL ISSUES WILL COME BEFORE THIS SIX-WEEK CONFERENCE INCLUDING A LENGTHY RESOLUTION ATTACKING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

THIS PROPOSED RESOLUTION WAS DRAFTED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND SOME OTHER EASTERN BLOCK AND THIRD WORLD

COUNTRIES. THERE IS A STRONG DANGER THIS RESOLUTION WILL BE ADOPTED. IF IT IS APPROVED AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, FOR THE FIRST TIME NATIONS WILL HAVE INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS FOR EFFORTS TO CENSURE AND CONTROL THE PRESS AND ALL MASS MEDIA. ARTICLE XII OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SAYS THAT "STATES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIVITIES IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPHERE OF ALL MASS MEDIA UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION."

BEYOND LENDING INTERNATIONAL SANCTION TO THE CONTROL OF THE PRESS BY STATES, THIS PROPOSED RESOLUTION ALSO UNILATERALLY INTERPRETS THE AUGUST 1975 HELSINKI ACCORD TO MEAN THAT STATES HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTROL THE MASS MEDIA TO THEIR SATISFACTION. THIS COULD UNDERMINE THE FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST PROMISED IN THAT ACCORD, WHICH WAS SIGNED BY THIRTY-FIVE NATIONS, INCLUDING THE U.S.S.R.

ANY EFFORT TO REPORT THE NEWS AS THE PRESS SEES IT CAN BE QUELLED BY ANY STATE NOT ONLY UNDER ITS OWN ACTION BUT WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS. FURTHER, NEW AGENCIES AND THE PRESS COULD BE REQUIRED, UNDER THE LANGUAGE OF THIS RESOLUTION, TO "RECTIFY SUCH NEWS REPORTS" TO THE SATISFACTION OF ANY STATE.

THE UNITED STATES WILL OPPOSE THIS RESOLUTION AND WE BELIEVE THE STATE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE WILL HAVE THE FULL BACKING
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OF THE CONGRESS. LIKEWISE, WE BELIEVE THAT EVERY DEMOCRACY IN THE WORLD WILL JOIN WITH THE UNITED STATES IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

THE REAL QUESTION IS WHAT THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WILL DO IN CONSIDERING THIS RESOLUTION. MANY ARE TEMPTED STRONGLY TO ENDORSE ITS PRECEPTS. THEY SEE SUCH ACTION AS A MEANS OF CONTROLLING THEIR

OPPONENTS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES AND OUTSIDE OF THEIR BORDERS AND SUPPRESSING PRESS REPORTS THEY MIGHT CONSIDER NEGATIVE. TOWARD THIS END, THEY ARE WILLING TO JOIN WITH POWERFUL FORCES SUCH AS THE SOVIET UNION WHICH HAS A HISTORY OF USING TOTALITARIAN METHODS AND BRUTAL REPRESSION TO CONTROL ITS OWN PEOPLE. WE HOPE THOSE STATES INCLINED TOWARD THIS RESOLUTION RECOGNIZE ITS DANGERS. SUPPRESSION OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION UNDERMINES THE CREDIBILITY OF DEVELOPING

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NATIONS AND CAN HINDER ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT. IT OFTEN FOSTERS INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CONFLICT.

THE BEST RESOURCE SMALL AND UNDEVELOPED NATIONS HAVE IS THE CREATIVITY AND ENERGY OF THEIR OWN PEOPLE. TO GAIN THE BEST CHANCE OF IMPROVING THE LOT OF ALL, INTELLIGENT AND CAPABLE PEOPLE NEED EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS AND EXPAND THEIR EDUCATION. APPROVAL OF THIS RESOLUTION CENSORING THE PRESS AND THE MASS MEDIA WILL HINDER SEVERELY THE OPPORTUNITY OF CREATIVE PEOPLE EVERYWHERE TO PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR OWN AND OTHER NATIONS.

END TEXT.

ROBINSON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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